Sessional Paper 513/73
Tabled March 12/73

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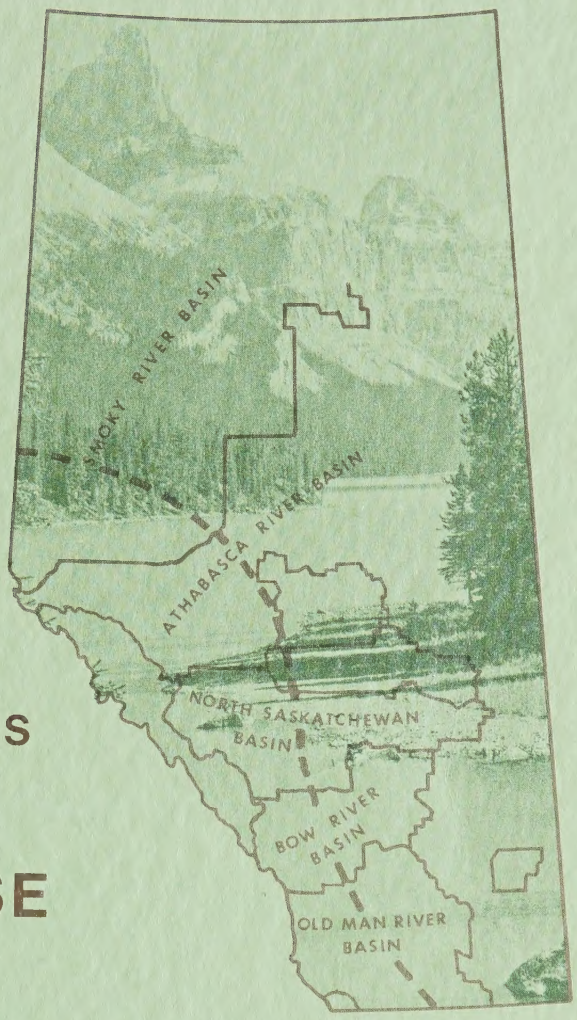

PUBLIC HEARINGS on LAND USE and RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT in the EASTERN SLOPES

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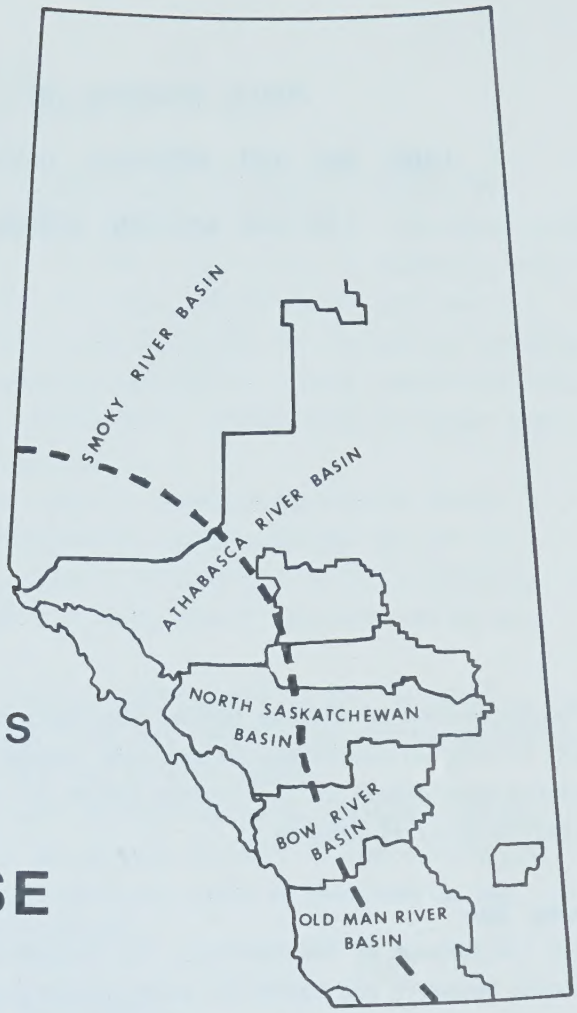

PUBLIC HEARINGS on LAND USE and RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT in the EASTERN SLOPES

Alberta Environmental Protection
0 1630 4016 6213

ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
9912 - 107th Street, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, T5K 1G5

OCTOBER, 1972

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PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

The Government of Alberta through the Environment Conservation Authority is holding comprehensive and wide ranging hearings on Land Use and Resource Development in the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains and the Foothills Areas of Alberta.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

For the purpose of the hearings, the Eastern Slopes are defined as the total mountain and foothills areas in the Province from its western and northwestern borders with British Columbia and its southern border with Montana to the eastern limits of the foothills but not including the National Parks and Indian Reservations.

TYPES OF LAND USE IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Land is now used in the Eastern Slopes or is proposed for use for such purposes as tourism, summer and winter recreation, urban development, forest utilization, mineral resource industries, surface mining, oil and gas development, underground coal mining, agriculture, watershed conservation, domestic water supplies, hydroelectric power developments, wildlife and fishery management, wilderness and natural areas, institutional use (charitable and religious groups), archaeological sites, research, etc. It is to be recognized that Indian Reservations and National Parks exist in this geographical area.

SUBMISSIONS ON INTEGRATED LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

The different present and potential uses of resources within the Eastern Slopes area may either have no effect on each other, complement each other, conflict with each other, or relate to each other in sequential ways.

Submissions on the different land uses and how the several uses might affect each other are invited from all sectors of the public including developers, industry, regional planning commissions, cities, municipalities, towns and improvement districts, Indian Bands, universities and other agencies, associations, groups and individuals.

Submissions on land use and resource developments such as forest utilization, mineral resource developments, surface mining, oil and gas exploration, tourism, summer and winter recreation, wildlife and fishing management, urban development and any other type of land use considered appropriate, are to be expected.

In addition, submissions are to be anticipated on the impact of developments in associated National Parks and Indian Reservations on activities outside these areas, but within the Eastern Slopes.

Submissions of this type will be received up to and including the date of the hearing. It would be appreciated however, if such submissions or a notice of intent to present a submission could be forwarded to the Authority two weeks prior to the hearings.

SUBMISSIONS FOR SPECIFIC COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL AND TOURIST DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Submissions for specific recreational and tourist development projects in the area will also be reviewed at the hearings.

The Department of Lands and Forests has already received several proposals from private interests for recreational development in this area. The Department invites further submissions for commercial recreational and tourist developments. Interested parties wishing to obtain additional information for making submissions should write to the Director of Lands, Department of Lands and Forests, Natural Resources Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

All submissions for these kinds of developments should be sent in to the Director of Lands by February 28th,1973. These will be made available to the public prior to the hearings so that comments and briefs concerning them can be presented at the hearings.

THE HEARINGS

For the purpose of the hearings the Eastern Slopes will be divided into five separate districts corresponding to the five major watershed basins and outlined by the statutory boundaries of the four Regional Planning Areas and Improvement District No. 14.

The Eastern boundary of the area corresponds with the Eastern edges of the foothills and is prescribed by an arc lying to the west of the cities of Lethbridge, Calgary, Red Deer, Edmonton and Grande Prairie, as indicated in the attached map.

Each district will be identified with the name of its watershed and be associated with a regional planning areas as follows:

WATERSHEDS	PLANNING AUTHORITIES
1. Old Man River Basin	Old Man River Regional Planning Commission
2. Bow River Basin	Calgary Regional Planning Commission
3. North Saskatchewan River Basin	Red Deer Regional Planning Commission
4. Athabasca River Basin	Provincial Planning Authority
5. Smoky River Basin	Peace River Regional Planning Commission

Submissions are invited on matters related to the Eastern Slopes as a whole, on integrated developments within the watershed districts, on specific developments in any part of the Eastern Slopes, and on particular recreational and tourism projects in the area.

1. THE EASTERN SLOPES

Submissions will be received on land use and resource development in the Eastern Slopes as a whole or in any part of them. For this purpose the reports of the Foothills Resource Allocation Study Group will be made available to the public through a Provincial Discussion Paper.

2. THE WATERSHED AREAS

The hearings will also receive submissions on proposed integrated developments in the five basin areas as well as proposals for developments within any one basin area.

To assist in the preparation of briefs, planning reports prepared by the individual regional planning commissions will be made available to the public prior to the hearings.

The significance to a watershed of developments within it, is recognized, as well as the importance that major waterways have to the residential communities and major urban areas downstream.

In this connection, reports of studies done of specific River Basins will be released to the public as they become available.

3. RECREATION AND TOURISM

Time will be separately scheduled at the hearings to receive proposals for commercial recreational and tourism projects.

These will be specific proposals advanced by private, commercial interests for projects designed to promote recreation and tourism within the area.

Such proposals must be formally submitted to the Director of Lands before February 28th,1973, in order that they can be made available to the public prior to the hearings so that comments and briefs concerning them can be presented at the hearings.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

More detailed information on the general as well as the specific aspects of the hearings will be made available from time to time.

OBJECTIVES OF THE HEARINGS

Through public hearings to enquire into all potential uses and to formulate ways in which optimum benefits and environment conservation can be achieved now and for the future from the various resources of the eastern slopes. To consider and evaluate the views of the public on specific recreational and tourist development proposals for the area. To lay the views presented to the Authority and the Authority's recommendations thereon before the Government of Alberta.

For further information please contact:

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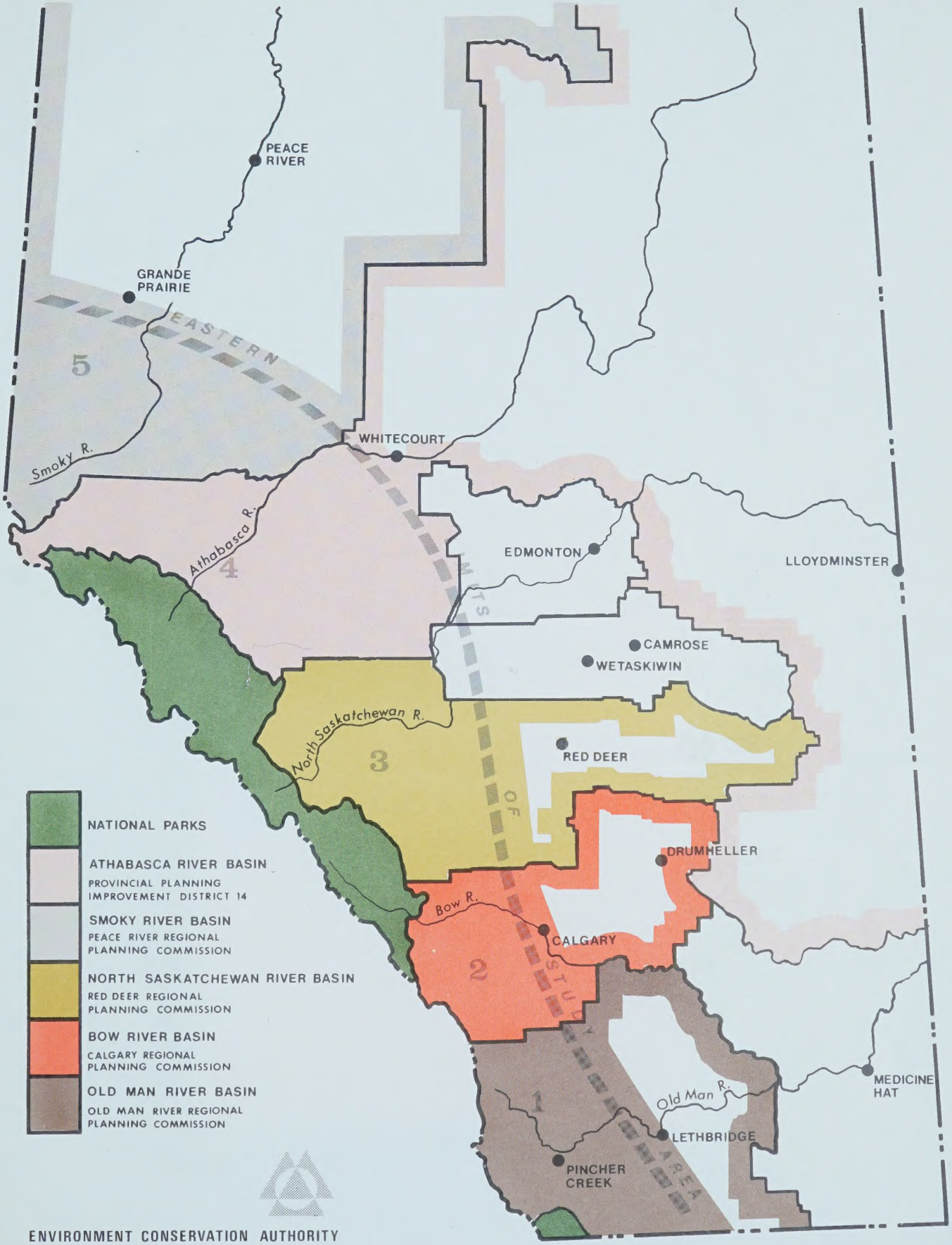

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